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SAFARI DEATHS METAL



SNYDER + CAPULLO + GLAPION + PLASCENCIA

AGES 13+
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DC

DC FUTURE STATE

JUSTICE LEAGUE



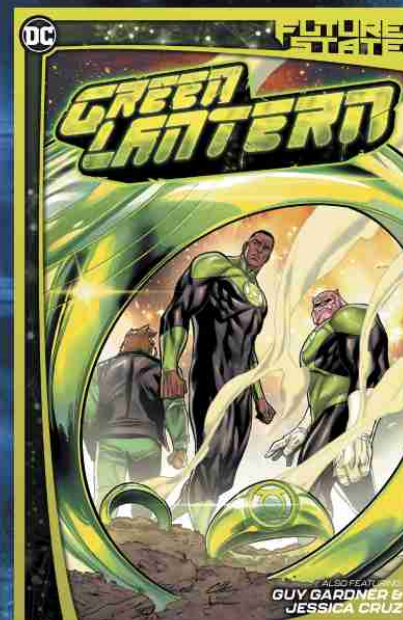
**AN ALL-NEW TEAM FOR
AN ALL-NEW ERA!**

Written by **JOSHUA WILLIAMSON**

Art by **ROBSON ROCHA**

Includes a **JUSTICE LEAGUE DARK** bonus story

48 PAGES



**JOHN STEWART
MUST LEAD THE
POWERLESS
LANTERNS HOME!**

Written by

GEOFFREY THORNE

Art by

TOM RANEY

Includes a **TALES OF THE GREEN
LANTERN CORPS** bonus story

48 PAGES

**AN INTERGALACTIC
ADVENTURE
BEYOND THE
SEVEN SEAS!**

Written by

BRANDON THOMAS

Art by

DANIEL SAMPERE



**DISCOVER THE DESTINY OF THE
DC UNIVERSE!**

#DCFutureState



JANUARY + FEBRUARY

I'VE HEARD A LOT OF PRAYERS ON THE BATTLEFIELD.



SOMETIMES THEY'RE WHISPERED. SOMETIMES THEY'RE SCREAMED AT THE SKY.

THEY USUALLY COME BEFORE THE WORST OF IT.

I'VE HEARD PRAYERS FOR VICTORY, FOR PROVIDENCE, PRAYERS FOR FORGIVENESS.

WHATEVER'S IN A SOLDIER'S HEART, WHATEVER LONGING, YOU HEAR IT SPOKEN THEN.

GOD, I WISH I STILL HAD MY HAIR.

LOOK AT YOU... FIEND.

EVERYONE GET READY! THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS' DARK ARMIES... THEY'RE AMASSING!

WHY ARE THEY JUST STANDING THERE?

THEY'RE TRYING TO INTIMIDATE US. SHOW US THEIR NUMBERS.

FINE...





ONE KIND OF PRAYER
YER UNCLE ROCK HEARS
A LOT IS THE PLEA FOR
GUIDANCE.

FOR WISDOM
OR DIRECTION.

SHOW ME WHAT TO
DO OUT THERE, LORD.

GUIDE MY FEET.
MY HANDS...

DEATH METAL

AN ANTI-CRISIS PART VI

THE TRUTH MACHINE

BY SCOTT "SLASHER" SNYDER & GREG "CRUSHER" CAPULLO



WITH

INKS - JONATHAN "DEATH PUNCH" GLAPION

COLORS - FCO "PLUNDERER" PLASCENCIA

LETTERS - TOM "KNOCKOUT" NAPOLITANO

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& STEVE "FIREBALL" FIRCHOW

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MISTER MIRACLE VARIANT COVER BY STANLEY "ARTGERM, A.K.A. LOW BLOW" LAU

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SUPERMAN CREATED BY JERRY SIEGEL AND JOE SHUSTER
BY SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT WITH THE JERRY SIEGEL FAMILY

...GUIDE MY
HEART LEST I
LOSE MY WAY.

THE PASSAGE TO THE FORGE OF WORLDS.

THE FORGE
SHOULD BE JUST
AHEAD!

I DON'T
GET IT. THIS
PLACE IS MADE OF
DARK MATTER,
AIN'T IT?

SO WHERE
ARE ALL THE
WORLD'S HOPES
AND FEARS AND
FRAGGIN' MUSHY
STUFF?

I DON'T
KNOW. MAYBE
WITH THE UNIVERSE
AT WAR, THERE'S LITTLE
ROOM FOR ANYTHING
BEYOND THE
FIGHT.

DAMN,
IN A WAY,
THAT'S EVEN
SPOOKIER.

IF THERE IS ONE
FEAR DOWN HERE...
SOMETHING EVERYONE
IS AFRAID OF RIGHT
NOW, I'D IMAGINE
IT'S--

HOLD IT.
DID YOU HEAR
SOMETHIN'?



"...HE'S THE
LAST TERROR IN
EXISTENCE!"

YOU'RE GETTING
TIRED, MY QUEEN.
I CAN SENSE IT.
ALL THE REMAINING
CRISIS ENERGY
WAS REDIRECTED
TO ME.



MAYBE SO...BUT
YOUR STRENGTH IS
LIMITED AS WELL.
PERHAPS WE CAN
REACH SOME KIND
OF DEAL?

SURE. HOW
ABOUT I KILL YOU...AND
TAKE THE LAST OF YOUR
POWER? SOUND GOOD?



INGRATE!











UNH! THE
MAIN MAN KNEW
THIS WAS A ONE-WAY
RIDE, HOSS. LOOK, I'VE
BEEN A BOUNTY HUNTER A
LONG TIME. AND AIN'T
NO BETTER **BOUNTY** TO
GO OUT ON THAN YOU
KICKING THAT GUY'S
SKINNY ASS.

SO YOU
JUST GET THE
BOOK WHERE
IT NEEDS TO
BE. MAKE IT
MATTER.



NO!

YOU
LISTEN TO
ME, YOU
UGLY SON
OF A--



HAHA...

OURSSSS.



NOW
GO!

WHUMP

WAIT! THE
JOURNAL!

NONONO.

THE JOURNAL.

IT
WOULD HAVE
MADE LITTLE
DIFFERENCE.

DARKSEID?

THE FORGE
DIMS BY THE MOMENT.
THE CREATIONS OF THE ONE
WHO LAUGHS HAVE NO REAL
SOULS. THEY HAVE NO HOPES,
NO FEARS. THEY THINK ONLY
OF WINNING. IN MOMENTS,
WHEN YOUR FRIENDS
DIE, THE FIRES WILL
GO DARK.



WAAH!

HUSH,
MOBIUS,
IT IS ALMOST
OVER.

SOON
IT WILL BE
TIME FOR
SLEEP.

NO...
THERE HAS
TO BE A WAY
TO WIN!

"IT'S DONE,
MY QUEEN..."



YOUR POWER IS NEARLY GONE. BUT JUST FOR FUN, I'VE SAVED ONE LAST SURPRISE FOR YOU. THESE FRAGMENTS...DO YOU RECOGNIZE THEM?

THEY'RE PARTS OF THE **SOURCE WALL**, THE STRUCTURE THE **HANDS** IMPRISONED YOU INSIDE OF FOR EONS.



NO! ALL I WANTED WAS TO EVOLVE YOUR KIND! TO MAKE YOU STRONG AND--
MMPH!

I KNOW WHAT YOU WANTED. BUT ALL YOU GODS, YOU FAIL TO UNDERSTAND US AT OUR MOST FUNDAMENTAL LEVEL.

BEINGS LIKE YOU, YOU SEE HUMANITY, SEE OUR DARK INSTINCTS...AND YOU TRY TO **SAVE US**.

BUT THE MISTAKE ALL OF YOU MAKE IS THINKING THAT WE **WANT TO BE SAVED**, RATHER THAN **UNLEASHED**.

THE BIG SECRET, THE TRUTH, IS THAT IN THE END IT'S **YOU GODS** WHO WANT TO BE **SAVED FROM US**.

SO DIE KNOWING THIS: WE LOOK AT YOU, ALL YOU WHO BEG TO OUR BETTER ANGELS...



...AND WE
LAUGH.

"SOMETHING'S
HAPPENING!"

ROCK'S PRAYER



"LOOK!
WE'RE...WE'RE
WINNING!"

"IT'S TRUE! THEY'RE
RETREATING!"

WOO-HOO!
YAY!



LOOK AT THEM ALL RUNNING! HA!

ALSO, NICE HAT, HON.

SHE'S RIGHT! WE'VE BEATEN THEM BACK FOR NOW!

WOO-HOO!

YAY!

RIGHT?



HA! THAT'S RIGHT, YOU BETTER RUN!

THIS PLACE MIGHT BE A DUMP, BUT IT'S OUR DUMP!



BRUCE, YOU ALL RIGHT?

... SOMETHING DOESN'T FEEL RIGHT.

YOU ARE MISSING YOUR ARM.

IT'S NOT THAT.



I FEEL IT TOO, DAD. SOMETHING'S DIFFERENT.

MAYBE WE JUST FORGOT HOW IT FEELS TO WIN?



I MEAN ~~SUN~~...IT HAS BEEN A WHILE.



NO, JARRO'S RIGHT. THE EARTH...IT'S BEEN SHIFTED.

I FEEL IT TOO. THE ONE WHO LAUGHS... HE'S COMING.

ON THE CONTRARY, ABIGAIL...



...I'M
ALREADY
HERE.

AND IN THE
TIME IT TOOK YOU
TO CHEER, I REALIGNED
THE EARTH, FINISHED
CREATING ALL MY
PLANETS, ALL MY
ARMIES.

HERE ARE MY
FAVORITE SOLDIERS
THOUGH, THE ONES I'VE
BEEN SAVING FOR YOUR
LAST MOMENTS. SO SAY
HELLO TO YOUR DARKEST
NIGHTMARES, BEFORE
THEY KILL YOU.



CLARK, I
JUST WANT
YOU TO KNOW
THAT OUR
FRIENDSHIP...

I KNOW,
BROTHER.



EVERYONE.
THIS IS IT. GATHER
WITH YOUR FAMILIES.
FIGHT ALONGSIDE
THEM. WE GO OUT
TOGETHER.

"THIS CAN'T BE IT. I
WON'T LET IT BE!"

ALL MATTER
COMES FROM THE
FORGE, ITS METAL
IS CONNECTED
TO US.

IF I'D BUILT
THE MACHINE LUTHOR
DESIGNED, THE MACHINE
TO MAKE EVERYONE
REMEMBER ALL HISTORY,
I COULD HAVE UNITED
US ALL AND DRAWN
ANTI-CRISIS ENERGY
INTO MYSELF.



I'D HAVE A
CHANCE OF FIGHTING
THE ONE WHO LAUGHS.
BUT I DIDN'T LOOK AT
THE DESIGN. I...I
DON'T KNOW WHAT
TO BUILD.

COME NOW,
DIANA. HUMANKIND
DOES NOT WANT THE
TRUTH. THAT IT IS TINY,
THAT ONE LIFE MATTERS
NOT AT ALL IN THE
SCOPE OF THINGS? **ALL**
EVIL SPRINGS
FROM IT.

NO. NO,
YOU'RE
WRONG.

IT'S ONLY WHEN WE **FEAR**
THE TRUTH THAT EVIL RISES.
TO **KNOW** THAT ALL HISTORY AND
EVERY HUMAN LIFE IS PART OF
ONE STORY...IS TO KNOW THAT WE
ALL MATTER. THAT EVERYTHING
WE DO MATTERS. THAT **TRUTH**
CONNECTS US, BECAUSE IT IS
LOVE, AND IT **BINDS**
US TOGETHER...

"**BINDS**"?

GREAT
HERA.

"A MACHINE
THAT FORCES
US TO SEE THE
TRUTH."

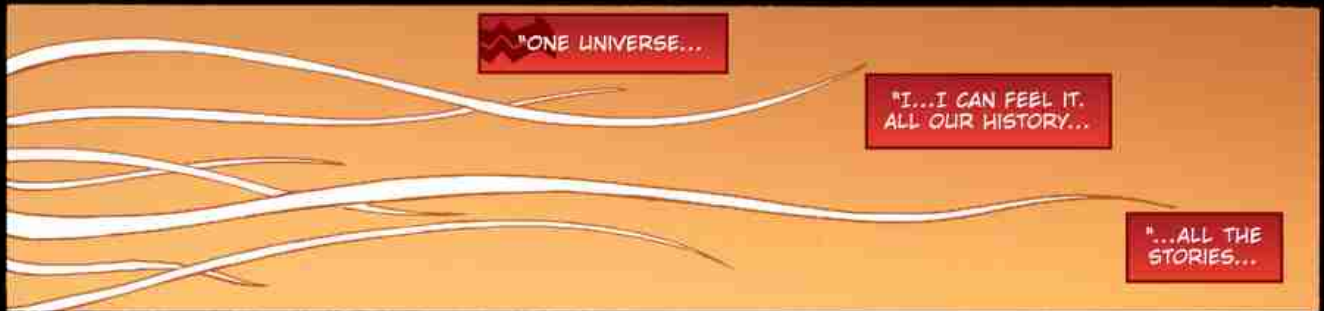
I KNOW
WHAT TO
DO.

"ALL RIGHT,
EVERYONE.
THIS IS IT.

"WE FIGHT AS
ONE ARMY.

"ONE PLANET."





ONE TRUTH.

I...I CAN FEEL IT WORKING!

I SOMETIMES PRAY MYSELF. HELL, I ADMIT IT. IN THOSE MOMENTS WHEN IT'S LOOKING GRIM.

WHAT DO I PRAY FOR? ME, I PRAY FOR THE THING THAT I THINK EVERYONE IS PRAYING FOR DEEP DOWN.

I PRAY FOR THE FIGHT TO MEAN SOMETHING.

MY GOD...

EVEN IF WE LOSE, EVEN IF WE DON'T GET TO SEE IT.

I PRAY THAT ALL THE PAIN AND SUFFERING, ALL THE SACRIFICE, THAT IT'S SOMEHOW PART OF A CLIMB--A CROOKED ONE, SURE, BUT A CLIMB NONETHELESS.

AND ABOVE ALL, I PRAY THAT IN THE END WE ARE LEFT TRANSFORMED, FORGED BY THE FIRES OF BATTLE INTO SOMETHING BETTER THAN WE WERE BEFORE. AMEN.

I...I REMEMBER IT ALL.

DIANA?

YES, I'VE HEARD A LOT OF BATTLEFIELD PRAYERS.

THE SAD TRUTH IS, GOD NEVER ANSWERS.

BUT ON THAT DAY, ON THAT LAST SCORCHED BATTLEFIELD, TO ALL OF OUR SURPRISE...

ONE WHO LAUGHS! YOU WANT TO FIGHT SOMEONE...

...SHE DID.

...I'M
RIGHT
HERE.

APR 0
2010
H. ROM

TO BE CONCLUDED

DC

DC FUTURE STATE

NIGHTWING



**GOTHAM IS OUT OF CONTROL
IF ITS SAFEST PLACE IS
ARKHAM ASYLUM...**

Written by **ANDREW CONSTANT**
Art by **NICOLA SCOTT**

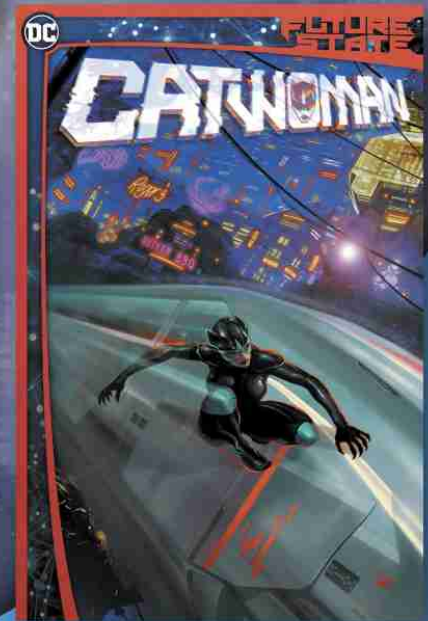


**TO STOP THE
MAGISTRATE FROM
GAINING IMMORTAL
LIFE, HE MUST RISK
CERTAIN DEATH!**

Written by
MEGHAN FITZMARTIN
Art by
EDDY BARROWS

**EVEN HEROES
CAN'T SAVE
GOTHAM NOW.
GOOD THING
SHE'S NO HERO.**

Written by
RAM V
Art by
OTTO SCHMIDT



**DISCOVER THE DESTINY OF THE
DC UNIVERSE!**

#DCFutureState



JANUARY + FEBRUARY



INTERVIEW WITH CARTOGRAPHER JARED BLANDO

The Metalverse is a dangerous place—you'll need help if you're going to make it out alive. Thankfully, fantasy and gaming artist and cartographer Jared Blando used his talents to illustrate the official map of the Metalverse, detailing the world remade in the image of the Batman Who Laughs.

As an artist who has explored many fictional realms, what about the world of *Dark Nights: Death Metal* appealed to you?

What appealed to me most was contributing to the DC Universe in my own way! I thought the idea of a fantasy map penned by Lex Luthor's hand (or at least from his perspective) was a really unique and fun idea. A postapocalyptic, fantastical map depicting the twisted world of the Batman Who Laughs sounded like a project I could really run with.

What was your process in illustrating the Metalverse map? What are some of your favorite sections and details?

The process went through a few stages and evolved the more I worked on it. At first, I was under the impression that it was strictly a "pen and ink on parchment"-looking piece due to the style samples the art director sent. As the sketch evolved, so too did the color palette, and I went with a pen and red ink style with watercolor washes. So still muted, but with blasts of color.

My favorite parts of the map are Aquaman's red throne and his fleet of sea creatures, or the Batman Who Laughs' ominous perch atop Gotham City.

You've created maps for *The Last God* and *Death Metal*—what do you like about working in the comic book world?

I really like working with comic book art directors. They know what they want, but they allow me to take the ball and run with it. They show a lot of trust and respect my design input. Having more freedom on a project allows me to inject more of my creative thought into it, and DC has been great about that.



VISIT [DCCOMICS.COM/METAL](https://dccomics.com/metal) TO VIEW AN INTERACTIVE MAP WHERE YOU CAN LEARN HOW THE BATMAN WHO LAUGHS RESHAPED THE WORLD!

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The Last Kryptonian-DCP

